Decentralised procurement of foodgrains

4146. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to decentralize procurement of foodgrains; and

(b) the mechanism being worked out to pass on the savings due to the introduction of scheme to the farmers and consumers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the advantages of the Scheme of Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains, the Union Government have been requesting the State Governments to adopt the scheme since 1997. The issue of decentralization of procurement of foodgrains was again discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21-5-2001, and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports held on 6-7-2001. In the meeting of the Standing Committee, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. It was also decided that further consultations would be held with the State Governments, and sharing of gains under the Scheme could be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme. Further meetings in this connection are being arranged with those States which are willing to adopt this scheme.

Foodgrains to poor women

4147. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal to distribute part of surplus foodgrain stock to poor women during the last three months of their pregnancy and first two months of the delivery of the child; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister announced in his Independence Day address on 15-8-2001, launch of a National Nutrition Mission. Provision